

## **Governor's Office and Efficiency Maine Announce Energy Contest**

Maine's Office of Energy Independence and Security and the Maine Public Utility Commission's Efficiency Maine program will hold their fourth annual energy saving contest for Maine's 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students this fall. The Governor will award prizes for the best energy saving ideas in two categories: 1) how to save energy in your own home; and, 2) how your school can save energy. Contest entries must be submitted by Tuesday, October 31st to Joy Adamson, Maine Public Utilities Commission Efficiency Maine Educational Program Manager, 18 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0018.

High energy prices have resulted in increased interest in energy conservation. October is Energy Awareness Month, a good time to focus on how we can save energy as we head into the winter heating season. This contest excites students about saving energy and inspires them to learn more about the topic. Once informed, school children retain the information throughout their lives, and spread their enthusiasm to other members of their house holds. Winning suggestions in prior contests have included "Use a fan instead of air conditioning to keep cool on warm days," from Brittany Page, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader from Zippel Elementary School in Presque Isle and "Turn (the) heat down when you leave the house," from Savannah Shurak, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader in Bloomfield School in Skowhegan.

In addition to saving money, energy conservation and efficiency will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and the risk of global warming.

For further information on the contest, contact Joy Adamson at (207) 287-8350 or at [joy.adamson@maine.gov](mailto:joy.adamson@maine.gov).